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## Book Reviews.

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THE REVISERS' GREEK TEXT: A Critical Examination of Certain Readings, Textual and Marginal, in the Original Greek of the New Testament, adopted by the late Anglo-American Revisers. By Rev. S. W. Whitney, A. M. Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co. 2 vols. Vol. I, pp. 361, Vol. II, pp. 350.

The problem which this book discusses is one well worthy of careful investigation. It is by no means to be accepted without argument that the Greek text, adopted by the New Testament Revisers of 1881, is at every point correct. To re-examine the evidence on which they based their conclusions, including also new evidence which has come to light in the little more than a decade since they did their work, and intelligently to criticise their conclusions is to render a valuable service to students of the New Testament. This is the task to which Mr. Whitney has set himself. His book gives proof of large knowledge of the sources of evidence and of a good degree of insight. After an introduction in which he clearly indicates what the general character and tendency of the body of the work is to be, he proceeds to discuss in detail the Revisers' text or their marginal reading in nearly six hundred passages of the New Testament, usually comparing with it the text of the Common Version. The tendency of the author's arguments is pretty constantly toward the conclusion that the revisers have in a multitude of cases erred, chiefly through giving an undue weight of authority to a certain few very ancient manuscripts, and that they have as a consequence adopted an erroneous reading of the Greek text. This conclusion repeatedly reached in particular cases, is made to support the doctrine that textual questions ought to be settled, not by appeal to the supposedly superior authority of any manuscript or manuscripts, but rather in the main by the application of the principles of internal evidence to each individual case. As between internal evidence based on the probability that the Scripture author would write this or that, and that based on probability respecting the conduct of a scribe in transcribing, Mr. Whitney lays special stress upon the former. There runs through his discussion a thread of depreciation of such manuscripts as the Sinaitic, the Vatican, the Alexandrian, the Codex Ephræmi Syri Rescriptus and the Regius Parisiensis. The student of the textual criticism of the New Testament will easily see that he sympathizes with the opinions of Dr. Scrivener and Dean Burgon rather than with those of Dr. Hort. The author does scant justice to the method of internal evidence

of groups. As respects the genealogical method more strictly so-called, it is only by an occasional passing phrase that the reader learns that the author has even so much as heard of it. His reticence may be due to the desire to avoid technical terms, but the book seems to show also that the author has never really appreciated the force of the argument on behalf of the method which he ignores. Mr. Whitney has given us a valuable and even acute discussion of the "internal evidence of readings" in a large number of New Testament passages; and for this the book is to be cordially welcomed. A discriminating reader will be constrained in a number of instances to agree with Mr. Whitney as against the revisers; and even assent though, perhaps, not with the heartiness that the author would desire, to his contention that the agreement of two or three of the most ancient manuscripts is not entitled to the weight commonly given to it by Westcott and Hort. But we cannot ourselves either expect or desire that the book should persuade any scholar to abandon the genealogical method and rely wholly or mainly on internal evidence of readings. Neither could we advise the student of the Revised Version, who has not investigated the subject of textual criticism to accept Mr. Whitney's conclusions unquestioningly. Probably he would do better to rely on the Revised Version alone, than to commit himself wholly to Mr. Whitney, who would certainly in many instances lead him quite astray.

By the insertion of both the Greek text and the English translation, the book is adapted to be used both by the Greek scholar and the English student. The style is clear, and despite the somewhat technical character of the discussion, the reader is carried along by interests in the subject. The publishers have done their work admirably.

E. D. B.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. By John H. Kerr, A. M., Pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church of Rock Island, Ill. With an Introductory Note by Professor Benjamin B. Warfield, D. D. Fleming H. Revell Co., Chicago and New York. pp. 333. \$1.50.

The appearance of such a book as this, coming from the source it does, is a gratifying fact. It shows that average Christian congregations can be interested in discussions that are commonly supposed to belong exclusively to theological seminaries, or to ministerial circles. It shows furthermore that pastors are found who do not begrudge the time and labor for preparation which such discussions imperatively demand. The author is a busy pastor, and the volume has grown out of a series of sermons originally addressed to his own people. Accordingly, the treatment is popular rather than technical. While he has consulted the leading recent works in this department, he has not permitted himself to be seduced from conservative, not to say traditional, views by the undue influence of great names. The main facts are clearly stated, and with ample fullness to meet the requirements of those for whom the book was written. The reader will find the analyses of the various New Testament books helpful, though one could wish that they had been prepared